

# Record

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BAPTISTS

**IN THE WORD** — Landon Dowden of Baton Rouge delivers the message on December 29 to participants in the 2005 Mississippi Baptist Youth Evangelism Conference Challenge in the A.E. Wood Coliseum on the campus of Mississippi College in Clinton. Dowden is a youth speaker and pastor of CrossPoint Church in Baton Rouge. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)



## Youth pack MC coliseum for YEC 2005

By William H. Perkins Jr.  
Editor

More than 2,600 young people and their sponsors jammed A.E. Wood Coliseum on the campus of Mississippi College in Clinton for the 2005 Mississippi Baptist Youth Evangelism Conference (YEC) Challenge, according to a member of the event's planning committee.

The venerable annual gathering, long a favorite of youth and youth ministers, has grown into one of the largest gatherings of Mississippi Baptists anywhere in the state. The Mississippi Baptist Youth Night held each summer in the 10,000-seat Mississippi Coliseum in downtown Jackson is the largest Mississippi Baptist gathering.

"YEC Challenge was incredible this year. God moved in great ways as we focused on the theme of prayer from James 5:16," said planning committee member Harvey Ellis, youth ministry specialist in the Discipleship and Family Ministry Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB).

"The YEC Challenge is about students and their leaders being challenged to share Christ with

others, and all who were there this year were challenged personally to do just that," he said.

Ellis estimated there were about 50 decisions for Christ during the 2005 YEC Challenge, with about half being professions of faith.

"Our team was so encouraged by what we saw and heard from students and their leaders. We were a little skeptical at first because only 150 people had registered by December 1, and then many more came in for registration as the event drew near. I would like to encourage churches to try to register a little earlier next year, if possible."

Landon Dowden, pastor of CrossPoint Church in Baton Rouge, La., was the keynote speaker. "All his messages were well-received by the

youth in the audience; I believe his first message, though, was outstanding and the best of all," Ellis said.

Jason Elam, worship leader for the college Bible study at his home church, Temple Church in Hattiesburg, led the worship time at the conference and was accompanied by his band, Eighty-Six Eleven. "Jason and his band have a tremendous talent for reaching into the hearts of young people through their praise and worship," Ellis said.

Information on Elam's new CD, *Infinite God*, can be found at <http://www.grassrootsmusic.com/artist/elamjason>.

Among the leaders at the conference's break out sessions were Dowden and:

— **Casey Nelson**, recreation minister at First Church, Olive Branch.

— **Gary Permenter**, president of Gary Permenter Ministries in Columbus.

— **John Kittrell**, pastor of Shuqualak Church, Shuqualak. Kittrell also served on the event planning committee.

Ellis said an attendee sent him an e-mail several days later. "He was so moved by what he heard at the conference that he said he intended to share the Gospel with the people who were coming to his birthday party. That's the kind of feedback we like to hear," he said.



**PRAISE AND WORSHIP** — Jason Elam (right) of Hattiesburg leads the 2005 Mississippi Baptist Youth Evangelism Conference Challenge on December 29 in the A.E. Wood Coliseum on the campus of Mississippi College in Clinton. The annual event drew more than 2,600 people. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)

Any comments or suggestions for future Youth Evangelism Conference Challenges are welcomed by the planning committee, Ellis said. "I can be contacted at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. My telephone number is (601) 292-3286, or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651, ext. 286. My e-mail is [hgeillis@mbcb.org](mailto:hgeillis@mbcb.org)," he said.

Planning committee members for 2005, in addition to Ellis and Kittrell, were:

— **Jon Cooper**, youth minister at First Church, Amory.

— **Heather Lyons**, a member of Providence Church, Hattiesburg.

— **Mark Williams**, youth minister at Agricola Church, Lucedale.

— **Shannon Slover**, youth minister at First Church, Laurel, who also served as event coordinator.

— **Rene Edwards**, ministry assistant in the MBCB Discipleship and Family Ministry Department.

The 2006 Mississippi Baptist Youth Evangelism Conference Challenge is scheduled for December 28-29 at Mississippi College in Clinton. The conference is funded each year by the Mississippi Baptist Cooperative Program and a participant fee.





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# New year, same story

The 2006 entertainment awards season in America is upon us, so let the glorification of sin begin anew.

First up was the Hollywood Foreign Press Association's Golden Globe Awards extravaganza, described far and wide as a bellwether for the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences' Academy Awards on March 5. One would expect that such high-visibility awards would closely track the most popular and top-grossing movies of the year, the movies that were big hits with American movie goers. One would be wrong.

Did the Golden Globe voters — approximately 80 people employed by foreign news media outlets — pick the outstanding *Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe* as best picture? How about the latest, high-tech remake of *King Kong*, one of America's favorite all-time movie themes?

No, our self-absorbed friends from overseas picked *Brokeback Mountain*, a sordid tale of homosexual cowboy love set in the early 1960s, as Best Motion Picture of 2005. As a matter of fact, Golden Globe voters showered *Brokeback Mountain* with four of their top awards including Best Director-

Motion Picture (Ang Lee), Best Screenplay-Motion Picture (Larry McMurtry and Diana Ossana), and Best Original Song-Motion Picture (*A Love That Will Never Grow Old* by Gustavo Santaolalla and Bernie Taupin).

There was not a single award for movies like *Chronicles of Narnia* and *King Kong*, but there was a best actor award for Philip Seymour Hoffman for his role as flamboyant homosexual Truman Capote in *Capote*, and a best actress award for Felicity Huffman for her role as a transsexual single parent in *Transamerica*.

So much for the deep insight of foreign media types. If history can be believed, the Academy Awards voters — all of whom are members of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences — will probably follow suit and elevate the strangest of human perversities to a place of honor and respect.

What's going on here? A quick check of the "box office," Hollywood vernacular for the amount of money a movie takes in, reveals much. Box office is an important and appropriate gauge of just how out of touch our news media and entertainment industries are with basic Americans and our values.

How well has *Brokeback Mountain* done at the box office? According to [www.boxoffice Mojo.com](http://www.boxoffice Mojo.com), *Brokeback Mountain* has taken in \$41,730,237 in 45 days since it was released. *Transamerica*,

that other Golden Globe darling, has taken in all of \$876,859 in 52 days of release.

How have these two big hits fared when compared to other movies released in the same time frame? Brace yourself.

The *Chronicles of Narnia* has grossed \$271,852,138 in 45 days of release. You read right: nearly \$272 million dollars, or nearly seven times *Brokeback Mountain's* numbers. In only 40 days of release, *King Kong* has earned \$209,875,885, or 239 times more than *Transamerica*, which has been in release for a longer period of time.

They just don't get it in Hollywood. We, the occupants of what the awards voters sneeringly refer to as "flyover country" — the area between New York and Los Angeles — don't want tales of sin and perversion constantly shoved down our throats and touted as standards of behavior. We want movies to be uplifting, enlightening, and entertaining, and we obviously vote with our pocketbooks.

Yet the elitist entertainment establishment in this country persists in insulting us with such sad fare as *Brokeback Mountain* and *Transamerica*. Needless to day, most businesses couldn't survive if they tried to sell such unwanted products to a discerning public.

Given the embarrassing box office/rave reviews for *Brokeback Mountain* and *Transamerica* — and so many others just like them over the years — there must be something else going on here.

Could it be an agenda for America?

It's been interesting to watch the emerging church conversation over the last few months. Important issues are being discussed. Unfortunately, like many conversations, good things are lumped together with bad and important conversations are lost in more heat than light.

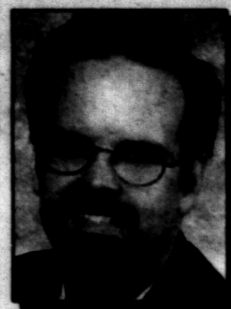
My own observation as one who speaks at some events classified as "emerging" is that there are three broad categories of what is often called "the emerging church." Oddly enough, I think I can fairly say that most in the emerging conversation would agree with my assessments about the "types" of emerging leaders and churches — and just differ with my conclusions.

In this too brief article, perhaps I can make a few suggestions on how conservative evangelicals should view these types of emerging churches. I believe that some are taking the same Gospel in the historic form of church but seeking to make it understandable to emerging culture; some are taking the same Gospel but questioning and reconstructing much of the form of church; and some are questioning and revising the Gospel and the church.

### Relevants

There are a good number of young (and not so young) leaders who some classify as "emerging" that really are just trying to make their worship, music, and outreach

## GUEST OPINION:



### Some pointers on the 'emerging church'

By Ed Stetzer  
North American Mission Board

more contextual to emerging culture. Ironically, while some may consider them liberal, they are often deeply committed to biblical preaching, male pastoral leadership, and other values common in conservative evangelical churches.

They are simply trying to explain the message of Christ in a way their generation can understand. They are intentionally reaching into their communities (which are different than where most Southern Baptists live) and proclaiming a faithful biblically-centered Gospel there. I know some of their churches — they are doctrinally sound, growing, and impacting lostness.

### Reconstructionists

The reconstructionists think that the current form of church is frequently irrelevant and the structure is unhelpful. Yet, they typically hold to a more orthodox view of the Gospel and Scripture. Therefore, we see an increase in models of

church that reject certain organizational models, embracing what are often called "incarnational" or "house" models. Don't want a building, a budget, and a program? OK. Don't want the Bible, scriptural leadership, covenant community? Not OK.

### Revisionists

Revisionists are questioning (and in some cases denying) issues like the nature of the substitutionary atonement, the reality of hell, the complementarian nature of gender, and the nature of the Gospel itself. This is not new — some mainline theologians quietly abandoned these doctrines a generation ago. The revisionist emerging church leaders should be treated, appreciated and read as we read mainline theologians — they often have good descriptions, but their prescriptions fail to take into account the full teaching of the Word of God.

Where do we go from here?

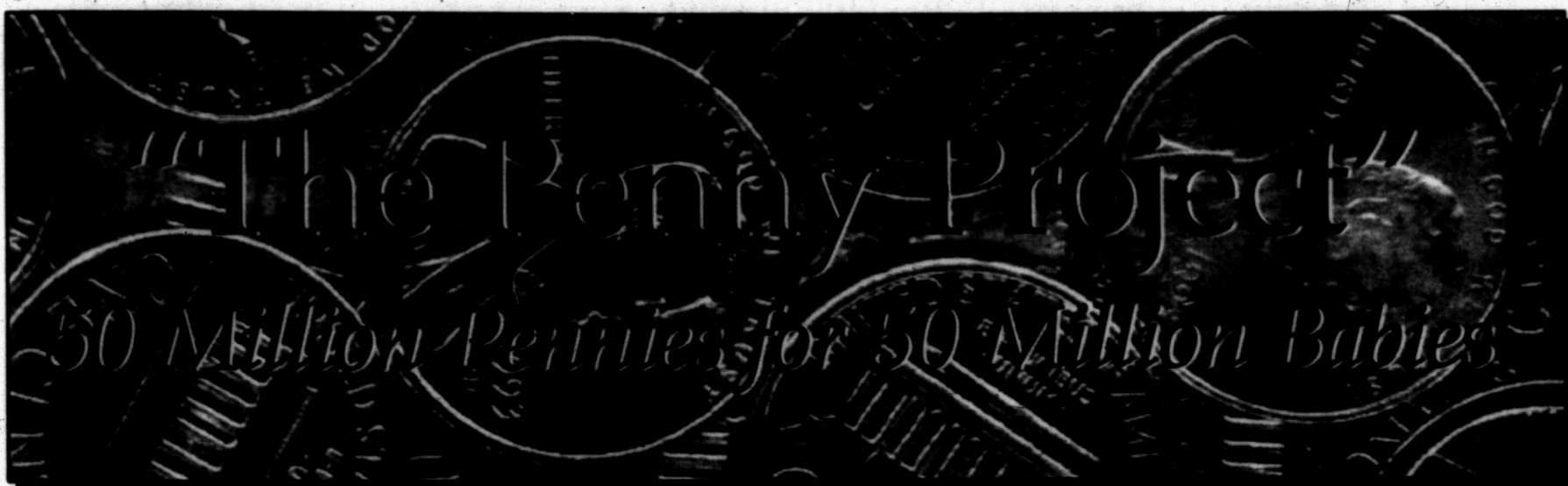
Much of SBC life is absent from the emerging church conversation. To be in this conversation, we need to think biblically and critically. We should journey and partner with the Relevants, seeking to make the Gospel understandable in emerging culture. We can and should enter into dialogue with Reconstructionists — learning, discussing, and applying together what Scripture teaches about church.

We can and must speak prophetically to Revisionists that, yes, we know the current system is not impacting the culture as it should — but the change we need is more Bible, more maturity, more discernment, and more missional engagement, not an abandonment of the teachings of Scripture about church, theology, and practice.

This is an important moment in the emerging church. Many "emerging" evangelicals are distancing themselves from the revisionist leaders. Let's affirm the good, look to the Scriptures for answers to the hard questions, and, yes, let's graciously disagree when others hold views contrary to our best scriptural understanding of God, Bible, and church.

Stetzer serves as research team director and missiologist at the North American Mission Board. His commentary appears courtesy of Baptist Press.





MISSISSIPPI  
BAPTISTS

## THE SECOND FRONT PAGE

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# Abortions top gruesome statistic in 2005

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP and local reports) — In what can only be described as tragic, the United States likely experienced its 47 millionth legal abortion at some point in 2005, more than three decades after the Supreme Court issued its infamous 1973 *Roe v. Wade* decision legalizing the killing of the unborn.

The statistic is based on data since 1973 gathered by the pro-choice Guttmacher Institute and on estimates by the National Right to Life Committee. In the first full year of abortion legalization nationwide (1974), Guttmacher counted 898,600 abortions. That number reached a peak of 1,608,600 in 1990, before falling to 1,293,000 in 2002.

Since 1975, the United States has witnessed more than one million abortions each year. Unless the nation's laws are changed, the number of abortions post-Roe will pass 50 million in 2008.

"It's an unspeakable tragedy," Randall K. O'Bannon, director of education and research at National

Right to Life, told Baptist Press. "That [47 million] is higher than the population of some countries. That would be wiping out a number of whole states. The world was appropriately horrified and shocked when we lost about a couple thousand people on Sept. 11... What we're talking about here is that sort of loss multiplied dramatically."

Guttmacher compiles data on abortions by contacting abortion clinics, and its latest data is from 2002 (1,293,000). The 47 million figure is based on Guttmacher data from 1973 through 2002, and on the 2002 count remaining relatively steady through 2005. By including a three percent underreport that Guttmacher estimates it misses, the figure of 47 million is derived.

"Our society needs to put in context the enormous amount of loss that we've suffered — the enormous amount of intelligence, the enormous amount of creativity, the enormous amount of productivity," O'Bannon said, referring to the millions of lives lost since Roe.

In light of the fact that the United States will pass the 50 million mark in abortions in coming years, the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB) and the Mississippi Baptist Christian Action Commission (CAC) are planning a special observance in 2006 to raise awareness.

CAC consultant Lee Yancey said 50 million pennies will be collected by Mississippi Baptists and placed in a large container on public display on the grounds of the Baptist Building in downtown Jackson. Each penny will signify a life lost to abortion.

"How can we bring attention to the fact that abortion is, in fact, killing babies? How can we do something that will make a difference for generations to come? The Christian Action Commission and the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board are proposing that each church, Sunday School class, youth group, or missions organization save their pennies. They are in abundance and multiply like coat hangers. Our goal is to collect fifty million pennies to represent the fifty million babies aborted since 1973," Yancey said in a January 19 Practical Principles article in *The Baptist Record*.

"Fifty million pennies is five hundred thousand dollars. We are still analyzing the logistics and it is possible that on the northwest corner of the Baptist Building property, engineers

will be designing a container to hold the estimated 156 tons of pennies. Yes, it will weigh 312,000 pounds when it is full. The money will be placed in an account with the Mississippi Baptist Foundation and the interest each year will be used for Mississippi pro-life causes. Some of the money might go to purchase sonogram machines for crisis pregnancy centers

# Record

while other monies might be used for abstinence education to help with the problems of infant mortality, teen pregnancy, and abortion," Yancey wrote.

"Some might say that a penny is insignificant, but it has value. Fifty million pennies are very valuable, just as every baby with a heartbeat who never had a chance to take her first breath is valuable. The time is overdue for this heinous procedure to be banned. We will announce in the near future a kickoff for this incredible project. In the meantime, save your pennies and we will ask you to bring them to the Baptist Building at a later date. Let's work together to save the babies," Yancey wrote.

## Judge OKs gay marriage

BALTIMORE (BP) — A Maryland judge on Jan. 20 struck down that state's 33-year-old marriage law and ruled that gay marriage must be legalized. The ruling is being appealed. The decision by Judge M. Brooke Murdock is only the latest victory on the state level for homosexual activists, joining recent wins in Massachusetts, California, New York, and Washington state. Massachusetts' highest court in 2003 ordered the state to legalize gay marriage. Judges in California, New York, and Washington also have issued pro-gay marriage rulings, although all of them have been appealed. In her 20-page ruling, Murdock said that a 1973 law defining marriage as being between one man and one woman violates the Maryland constitution's Equal Rights Amendment. The marriage law was passed in the early 1970s shortly after a question arose concerning the legality of gay marriage in the state. "Having concluded that preventing same-sex marriage has no rational relationship to any other legitimate state interest, this court concludes that tradition and social values alone cannot support adequately a discriminatory classification," Murdock wrote. Although 19 states have passed marriage amendments, homosexual activists have filed gay marriage suits in liberal-leaning states where courts are likely to be friendly and marriage amendments are less likely to be successful. Thus far, the Maryland legislature has been cool to the idea of an amendment. The American Civil Liberties Union filed the lawsuit on behalf of nine homosexual couples and one homosexual individual. Dan Furmansky, executive director of the homosexual group Equality Maryland, called the ruling an "historic moment" for the state. Murdock asserted that the state's marriage law served no "compelling government interests."

## Looking back

10 years ago

First Church, Pontotoc, prepares to celebrate its 150th anniversary, with the theme Remembrance and Renewal — A Reason to Celebrate.

20 years ago

New Orleans Seminary announces plans to renovate the 119,000 square foot, vacant Maison Blanche department store next door to the seminary, converting the 6.5-acre property into a student center and office complex.

50 years ago

Eleven early Christian burial urns, which archeologists say may provide the oldest record of Christianity, have been discovered in a cave on the Jerusalem-Bethlehem road. Inscriptions on the urns contain an historical confirmation of the trial and crucifixion of Jesus.





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with God in your own words:*

1. Lord, I admit that I need you.  
(I have sinned.)
2. I want forgiveness for my  
sins and freedom from eter-  
nal death. (I repent.)
3. I believe Jesus died and  
rose from the grave to forgive  
my sins and to restore my  
relationship with you.  
(I believe in Jesus.)
4. By faith, I invite Jesus  
Christ into my life. From this  
time on, I want to live in a  
loving relationship with Him.  
(I receive Christ as my Savior  
and Lord.)

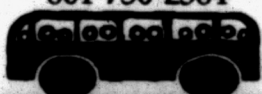
*"But as many as received him,  
to them he gave the right to  
become children of God, even to  
those who believe in his name."  
(John 1:12)*

*If you make a decision for  
Jesus Christ today, contact a  
local Baptist church for spiri-  
tual guidance.*

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## HURRICANE HUMMINGBIRDS

I keep feeders out for hum-  
mingbirds. I enjoy watching  
them dive, dart, and come in to  
feed and fuss with each other  
and then fly away. When Katrina  
came through it was fascinating  
to keep an eye on the feeder that  
was beside the window because  
the hummingbirds just kept on  
feeding. During the height of the  
storm when we were supposed  
to be receiving hurricane force  
winds, those little frail creatures  
of God kept flying up there and  
eating, but there was one signifi-  
cant difference: they were not  
fighting each other. The feeder  
that I have on my window has  
two little feeding spouts for  
them. Often two of them would  
be sitting there filling up with as  
much and as best they could in  
the storm. As a rule my hum-  
mingbirds do not come to the  
feeder two at a time. In fact, nor-  
mally if one is there feeding  
another one will come and run  
him off. They squawk, fuss, fight,  
and fly around to see who can  
come in there and eat. The other  
one seems to delight in coming  
in there and running him away  
but not during the storm. In the  
storm there they were taking  
care of their own needs and  
allowing others to be a part of  
taking care of their needs. It was  
almost as though they had called  
a truce because the storm was a  
lot bigger than they were.

As we sat there hunkered  
down with no power, I kept  
watching as the storm continued  
to intensify and the humming-



## Directions

**Jim Futral**, executive director-treasurer  
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

birds continued to feed in the  
hurricane as darkness moved  
upon us. Surely they must have  
wondered how long it would  
last. Will we ever get out of here?  
What does the future hold?  
There they were taking care of  
the essentials and treating each  
other kindly. The next morning  
as day began to break and the  
storm had moved through I  
watched as they came to feed  
and everything was back to nor-  
mal. They were fussing and  
fighting again. I couldn't believe  
it! Those sweet, caring, agreeable  
little birds of 12 hours ago were  
now squawking and bumping  
into each other and rooting each  
other off the little stand so that  
they could get their food or get  
more food. I thought to myself  
how amazingly those humming-  
birds are like some of us  
Baptists. It seemed like a congre-  
gation of some Baptists had  
shrunk down and were flying  
around outside my window.

When we recognize the awe-  
someness and urgency of the  
need and stay focused on what  
needs to be done we, like the  
hummingbirds, do pretty good.  
Just watch us! Sometimes you

will see a church that seems to  
be moving under the amazing  
control of the Spirit of God  
focused on reaching a world for  
Christ and everything moves in  
harmony. They seem to care  
about each other and the little  
things that often might irritate  
one another are set aside. The  
issue is to do what is needed to  
reach people for Christ.  
Someone else may appear to  
drop the ball or not be carrying  
his or her part of the load, but  
that is okay. Maybe there is a  
reason why we need to help one  
another. We all come to the feed-  
er, and we all find a way to meet  
the need. In the context of the  
urgency of a world blowing,  
blustering, and on the edge of  
crisis we stick together and  
make a difference. Then as  
things seem to calm down we  
lose the intensity and priority of  
what we need to be doing, and  
we turn our focus on other  
things. It is at that time that little  
things become major. The tem-  
perature really gets our atten-  
tion. We begin to question the  
motives of those around us. We  
begin to push away from some  
people. We began to squawk, fly

in circles, and wonder why  
other people are getting more  
than we are. We look like hum-  
mingbirds after the hurricane.

It may be that it is that kind  
of spirit from which the Apostle  
Paul was trying to urge the dis-  
ciples to move away and zero  
in on those things that needed  
their full attention and total  
resources when he said,  
"Redeem the times for the days  
are evil." If only God could  
ever bring us to understand  
that we live in a world tainted  
by sin, warped by evil and  
immorality, and that we are the  
people who can make a wrong  
world into right! Jesus has  
come, saved us, and commis-  
sioned us to get on with the  
great work of whatever it takes  
to reach a world for Him.

We live in that kind of storm.  
We need that kind of pointed  
purpose. It will make a differ-  
ence to others, and it will make a  
difference for us. What are you  
doing personally to try to reach  
people for Jesus where you are?  
When your church gathers  
together, has it become an obses-  
sive kind of game plan from  
Jesus in order to reach a world  
for Him? When we focus we can  
do fantastic things and the Lord  
can work in us and through us in  
fabulous ways. The winds are  
blowing, the rains are coming,  
the storm is around us, and we can-  
not lose sight of what Jesus has  
called us to do and to be.

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What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the

# HOUSE TOPS.

Matthew 10:27 NAS

January 26, 2006

HouseTops is a Baptist Record supplement produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Communication Services.

*Pray this day for...*

**January 27 – February 9, 2006**

Prayer Ministry Office • P.O. Box 530 • Jackson, MS 39205-0530 • Phone 601-292-3304 • Mississippi PrayerLine 1-800-787-7729 (PRAY)

*"Patient, persevering, believing prayer, offered up to God, in the Name of the Lord Jesus, has always, sooner or later, brought the blessing. I do not despair, by God's grace of obtaining any blessing, provided I can be sure it would be for any real good, and for the glory of God."*

*George Muller. WITH CHRIST IN THE SCHOOL OF PRAYER by Andrew Murray*

Gary D. Gilmore, Mount Vernon, Mo., is the state chaplain for the Missouri Army National Guard directing a chaplaincy team that serves some 1,000 soldiers and their families. Pray for marriage enrichment retreats being offered and for more pastors to respond to God's call to chaplain ministry.

Pray for any Acehese people who have begun to follow Christ this past year after the tsunami. Pray that God would root them firmly in their new faith, and that they would stand strong against persecution. Pray for them to grow in the Word, and that their greatest desire would be to glorify God.

L is a creative and intelligent woman who gave her life to Christ as a young girl, rejecting the teachings of the traditional religion of her family. Pray that God will provide evangelistic and discipleship opportunities in her neighborhood of Villa Olga in Santiago, Dominican Republic. Thank God for L and her desire to help in beginning a new church.

Haiti has a violent past that has followed it throughout its history and is present even today. Many merchants in the Central Plateau have not traveled to the capital for a long time now, due to fear of the violence in Port-au-Prince. Pray that Haitians will know that it is God who is the God of peace and love. Pray that they would desire a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

Give thanks for the young Somalis of the Horn of Africa who have become believers. Pray for them because all of them will be persecuted; some of them will be killed. Pray for the emergence of Spirit-drenched and anointed leaders. Pray for a holy obsession to see their neighbors, relatives, and their entire people come to know Jesus.

For: (1) VBS JumpStart, Liberty BC, Flowood (SS); (2) Pray for 8 to 10 volunteer teams that will be going to Malta in 2006. Pray even now that they will have "divine appointments" with people in their "adopted" villages. Over half of the 60 Local Council areas or villages in Malta have been adopted by praying groups from several countries and states.

For: (1) True Love Waits (Youth Ministry); (2) Edwina Robinson Special Day - "A Special Day for Mississippi Christ Followers" (WMU); (3) A group of believers has a vision to praywalk every street in the city with 5,000 prayer partners. Please pray for prayer partners to help in prayer walking every street in Thessaloniki, Greece.

For: (1) Baptist Building Staff AT HOME DAYS, 8th - 10th; (2) Give thanks that a major evangelism effort took place in Gohaye, Niger, last month. A team from Naimy spent three days sharing their faith in the village. During the weekend, the Jesus film was shown, with over 1,200 people attending. Pray that all the seed sown will take root and produce a great harvest.

(1) For Mississippi Baptist Church Music Conference, Emmanuel BC, Grenada (CM); (2) Malnutrition is an enormous problem for children in China's poverty-stricken rural areas. Pray today that the children of China will be able to receive much-needed physical sustenance. Pray also that they will have an opportunity to know the Bread of Life.

A volunteer team in North Africa prayed in a national's home. The prayer was in English. The words were a mystery. But now they could not explain and had never before experienced was possible. Today the family gathers each week to study the Bible. Pray for each member of this family to attend the study faithfully and to understand the Gospel completely.

For: (1) Area Keyboard Festivals: Hernando BC, Hernando; Crossgates BC, Brandon, FBC, Pascagoula; William Carey College, Hattiesburg; 8:30-9:30 p.m. (CM); (2) Please pray for President Robert Gabriel Mugabe of Zimbabwe (south-ern Africa).

For: (1) Area Keyboard Festivals: FBC, Grenada; North Greenwood BC, Greenwood; Alta Woods BC, Jackson (CM); (2) Pray for missionary Jeff Beards in Brazil as he works with the leadership in a local drug and alcohol recuperation center as they seek to help free individuals from their addictive and dysfunctional behaviors. Thank God for this open door.

Missionaries Dan and Mary Agnes Minnich who live in southern Taiwan write: "Please lift up LS and her husband, KL, to the Lord. KL prayed to receive Christ and is faithful in coming to church but struggles with living the Christian life, gambling and making poor choices. His children (age 16, 17 and 18) are also making poor choices. Pray for this family to experience God's transforming power in their daily lives."

For: (1) Christian Education Clinic, Highland BC, Meridian; (D&F); (2) Gary Mathis, North Charleston, S.C., is the special ministries coordinator for the Charleston Association in South Carolina. Pray that local volunteers will be burdened for the lost and be willing to serve in this diverse mission field.

## CORRECTION

from 1/12/06 HouseTops

### Family Life Conferences

**MONDAY, FEB. 6, MONTICELLO BAPTIST CHURCH (601-587-2114)**

- Senior Adult – Farley Earnest, Brandon
- Single Adult – Glenn Shows, MBCB
- Marriage – Don Hicks, MBCB
- Parenting – Denny Hydrick, Pearl
- Five Love Languages – Dot Day, Crystal Springs

**MONDAY, FEB. 13, THOMPSON BAPTIST CHURCH, SMITHDALE (601-567-2262)**

- Children/Preschool Leaders – Don Hicks, MBCB
- Finances – Jerry Mixon, MBCB
- Steps to a Godly Home – Glenn Shows, MBCB

**TUESDAY, FEB. 21, ROLLING FORK BAPTIST CHURCH (662-873-2862)**

- Marriage – Don Hicks, MBCB
- Senior Adults – Glenn Shows, MBCB
- Discipline in the Home – Harvey Ellis, MBCB

**THURSDAY, MARCH 2, FBC, YAZOO CITY (662-746-2471)**

- Marriage – Glenn Shows, MBCB
- Senior Adults – Gayle Garrett, Clinton
- Steps to a Godly Home – Don Hicks, MBCB

For more info, contact the Discipleship & Family Ministry Office, 601-292-3373, 1-800-748-1651 or E-mail: gshows@mbcb.org



## 2006 VBS JumpStart

**For All Pastors, VBS Directors, and VBS Leaders**

**February 7 9 a.m.-noon**  
Liberty BC, Flowood  
5199 Lakeland Dr.

**February 6, 2006 9-11 a.m.**  
FBC, Lyman  
14321 Old Hwy. 49, Gulfport

**February 7, 2006 7-9 p.m.**  
Trinity BC, Southaven  
7200 Swinnea Road

For more information, contact the Sunday School Department  
1-800-748-1651, 601-292-3292 or jellis@mbcb.org

## FOR HERE OR TO GO



**July 20-22, 2006**

**William Carey College, Hattiesburg**

At Centri-Kid 2006, the familiar phrase "For Here or To Go" is about much more than fast food. It's about missions!

• **For Here** starts with you – your relationship with Christ, including local missions opportunities.

• **To Go** is about sharing Jesus with others, especially to people groups in other countries.

Centri-Kid is far from your typical summer camp. Designed especially for kids who have completed 3rd, 4th, 5th, or 6th grade, Centri-Kid offers a camp experience that will grab kids' attention and capture their hearts through high-energy worship, interactive kid-friendly Bible study, and lots of fun!

**Cost: \$137 per person**

For registration info:

Sunday School Department

601-292-3292 or 1-800-748-1651 or jellis@mbcb.org

For those of you interested in attending Centri-Kid July 31-August 4 at William Carey College, please register with LifeWay at [www.lifeway.com/fuge](http://www.lifeway.com/fuge).



The following is a listing of contributions made to the Lord's work which were processed through the Business Office of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board from January 1, 2005, through December 31, 2005. An \* denotes a gift from the association. If you have any questions about the amounts reported for your church, please contact the Business Office at 601-968-3800 or 1-800-748-1651.

	COOP PROGRAM	OTHER	TOTAL
<b>ADAMS</b>			
ASSOCIATION	2,110.98	500.00	2,610.98
CALVARY	19,984.27	6,326.56	26,310.83
CLIFF TEMPLE	1,781.40	7,708.90	9,489.30
CRANFELD	121,262.81	1,007.45	122,270.26
FRICK	26,948.70	17,448.62	44,397.32
HIGHLAND	12,557.12	9,107.55	21,664.67
IMMANUEL	25,166.52	21,695.73	46,862.25
MORGANTOWN	503.68	335.73	839.41
NEW HOPE	62,640.00	34,427.88	97,067.88
PARKWAY	4,034.00	2,630.00	6,664.00
SPRINGFIELD	16,512.78	14,039.82	30,552.60
STANTON	19,519.22	12,425.19	31,944.41
WASHINGTON	313,077.43	238,088.79	551,166.22
<b>ALCON</b>			
ANTIOCH	5,135.42	8,913.92	14,049.34
BETHLEHEM	5,561.70	5,535.13	11,096.83
BRUSHCREEK	390.25	1,008.17	1,398.42
CALVARY	5,537.70	6,435.10	11,972.80
COUNTY LINE	1,200.00	7,680.00	8,880.00
DANVILLE	1,458.64	1,507.89	2,966.53
EAST CORINTH	8,056.48	4,931.72	12,988.20
FBC BIGGERSVILLE	3,209.85	3,931.79	7,141.64
FBC CORINTH	191,154.36	49,366.53	240,520.89
GLENDALE	8,240.38	11,443.69	19,684.07
GRINLE	6,251.84	5,502.40	11,754.24
HARVEST	8,152.38	16,519.34	24,671.72
JACINTO	1,490.20	2,632.00	4,122.20
KEMPS CHAPEL	1,377.04	1,846.04	3,223.08
KENDRICK	588.75	1,388.77	1,977.52
KOSUTH FIRST	2,782.79	3,721.49	6,504.28
LIBERTY HILL	1,270.00	421.00	1,691.00
LOVE JOY	944.25	2,849.53	3,793.78
NORTH CORINTH	98,030.41	63,948.38	161,978.79
OAKLAND	5,273.30	18,122.36	23,395.66
RIDGECREST	7,723.13	28,111.40	35,834.53
RIENZI	12,654.37	12,056.51	24,710.88
SOUTH CORINTH	1,200.00	7,255.00	8,455.00
TATE	81,009.23	51,878.66	132,887.89
TISHOMINGO CHAPEL	8,811.03	5,147.80	13,958.83
UNION	4,877.09	3,925.42	8,802.51
UNITY	876.97	1,829.15	2,706.12
WEST CORINTH	12,278.00	11,377.33	23,655.33
WHEELER GROVE	87,825.14	17,467.25	105,292.39
<b>ATLANTA</b>			
ASSOCIATION	2,279.00	1,472.00	3,751.00
BEAR CREEK	1,423.21	1,860.00	3,283.21
BERRY	1,313.80	2,740.35	4,054.15
CALVARY	1,500.00	450.00	1,950.00
CENTER	641.00	1,432.50	2,073.50
COUNTY LINE	3,875.00	5,263.50	9,138.50
DOY SPRINGS	340.28	5,864.75	6,205.03
EBENEZER	3,318.00	4,458.00	7,776.00
EDGEFIELD	646.00	4,458.00	5,104.00
ETHI	10,537.00	8,677.37	19,214.37
FBC KOSCIUSKO	187,239.80	135,355.27	322,595.07
HARMONY	465.48	300.00	765.48
HURRICANE	2,567.25	3,032.86	5,600.11
IMMANUEL	6,994.49	10,019.51	17,014.00
MCADAMS	11,359.62	9,274.14	20,633.76
NEW HOPE	1,214.45	900.00	2,114.45
NEW SALEM	806.70	1,451.50	2,258.20
NORTH UNION	10,414.48	15,450.21	25,864.69
PILGRIMS REST	1,216.00	5,226.00	6,442.00
PLEASANT RIDGE	160.00	50.00	210.00
PROVIDENCE	6,600.00	12,380.49	18,980.49
SAND HILL	4,486.67	4,465.68	8,952.35
SECOND KOSCIUSKO	6,016.76	5,271.69	11,288.45
SPRINGDALE	2,665.16	3,937.16	6,602.32
UNITY	48,015.74	35,905.19	83,920.93
YOKKANDOKANY	1,202.40	2,954.30	4,156.70
ZAMA	11,176.25	294,779.16	305,955.41
<b>BENTON-TIPPAH</b>			
ASSOCIATION	3,966.91	3,978.00	7,944.91
ACADEMY	19,932.30	6,681.75	26,614.05
AND	4,125.00	24,334.90	28,459.90
BLUFF SPRINGS	300.00	3,892.00	4,192.00
CALVARY	600.00	350.00	950.00
CANAAN	1,207.00	5,260.00	6,467.00
CHALMERS	1,207.00	5,260.00	6,467.00
CONCORD	2,600.00	4,419.50	7,019.50
DRY CREEK	700.08	2,245.72	2,945.80
DUMAS	44,236.58	24,781.16	69,017.74
FAITH-BENTON	3,714.09	6,986.52	10,700.61
FAITH-TIPPAH	2,146.12	4,035.46	6,181.58
FALCONER	2,146.12	4,035.46	6,181.58
FBC HICKORY FLAT	8,820.13	9,243.22	18,063.35
FBC RIPLEY	97,000.00	66,998.37	163,998.37
FELLOWSHIP	9,675.20	10,040.74	19,715.94
FLAT ROCK	2,193.71	4,948.98	7,142.69
HAMILTON	4,464.10	4,294.41	8,758.51
HARMONY	19,002.66	37,975.68	56,978.34
LEBANON	600.00	37,975.68	38,575.68
LOWREY MEMORIAL	11,846.54	13,206.51	25,053.05
MACDONALD-DEANTOWN	300.00	3,308.00	3,608.00
MIT HERBON	2,146.12	5,172.57	7,318.69
MIT MORRIS	2,146.12	5,172.57	7,318.69
MIT OLIVE	4,326.15	1,032.23	5,358.38
NORTH RIPLEY	986.63	2,604.10	3,590.73
OAKLAND	3,186.83	5,999.80	9,186.63
PALMER	7,064.54	8,859.47	15,924.01
PEOPLE	8,822.00	1,496.00	10,318.00
PINE GROVE-DUMAS	8,822.00	1,496.00	10,318.00
PINE GROVE-HICKORY FLAT	8,822.00	1,496.00	10,318.00
PLEASANT HILL	1,470.42	3,040.28	4,510.70
PLEASANT HILL TIPSLEY	2,844.72	8,603.62	11,448.34
PROVIDENCE	5,087.86	3,838.39	8,926.25
SHADY GROVE	3,944.84	9,944.84	13,889.68
SPRINGDALE	26,187.81	9,267.00	35,454.81
TIPSALEY	2,305.20	1,428.51	3,733.71
TURNERS CHAPEL	1,200.00	1,500.00	2,700.00
UNITY	2,146.12	6,000.00	8,146.12
WALNUT	39,290.82	28,746.12	68,036.94
WEST RIPLEY	2,146.12	2,146.12	4,292.24
WHITTENTOWN	390,126.52	362,186.92	752,313.42
<b>CALHOUN</b>			
ASSOCIATION	600.00	20,527.00	21,127.00
ANTIOCH	7,058.05	8,271.46	15,329.51
BANNER	1,025.00	1,025.00	2,050.00
BENTLEY	10,800.00	21,063.62	31,863.62
BETHANY	16,299.76	8,473.51	24,773.27
BIG CREEK	4,430.97	9,825.86	14,256.83
CONCORD CHAPEL	851.08	851.08	1,702.16
CALVARY	8,420.78	2,810.39	11,231.17
COLLEGE HILL	9,203.18	14,831.53	24,034.71
CONCORD	23,944.70	12,414.40	36,359.10
DAVID'S FLAT	2,000.00	1,850.00	3,850.00
DUNCAN HILL	3,382.23	6,471.33	9,853.56
ELAND	54,504.00	28,438.25	82,942.25
FBC BRUCE	52,445.00	27,858.15	80,303.15
FBC CALHOUN CITY	8,911.47	6,757.11	15,668.58
FBC HITSBORO	31,471.58	22,571.58	54,043.16
FBC VANDAN	1,369.00	2,781.00	4,150.00
GRACE SOUTHERN BAPT	1,792.70	5,889.36	7,682.06
LANTIP	1,139.24	3,032.79	4,172.03
MACDONALD	1,725.83	3,032.79	4,758.62
MIDWAY	8,159.79	4,076.00	12,235.79
MIT COMFORT	2,165.24	2,061.72	4,226.96
MIT MORRIS	1,357.22	1,357.22	2,714.44
MIT OLIVE	2,576.28	7,140.54	9,716.82
MIT RIPLEY	1,798.48	5,889.36	7,687.84
MIT TAYLOR	2,237.35	2,237.35	4,474.70
MIT TAYLOR	458.20	658.20	1,116.40
<b>CHICKASAW</b>			
AMITY	2,593.15	1,457.20	4,050.35
ARBOR GROVE	4,322.50	5,731.25	10,053.75
BETHLEHEM	4,211.50	2,332.43	6,543.93
CANAAN	1,538.32	1,538.32	3,076.64
FBC BRUCE	17,258.90	8,227.25	25,486.15
FBC BRUCE	166,952.50	28,221.27	195,173.77
FBC COLUMBIA	48,186.15	14,735.38	62,921.53
FBC COLUMBIA	2,864.37	1,834.50	4,698.87
FELLOWSHIP	769.40	1,700.00	2,469.40
MIT OLIVE	1,182.99	1,626.00	2,808.99
NEW PROSPECT	540.00	400.00	940.00
PARKWAY	14,581.12	20,738.55	35,319.67
PLEASANT GROVE	2,454.00	5,237.00	7,691.00
PLEASANT RIDGE	1,350.00	1,350.00	2,700.00
SCHOOL VALLEY	250.33	250.33	500.66
SHILOH	9,067.02	5,038.85	14,105.87
VAN VLEET	1,175.00	825.00	2,000.00
<b>CHICKASAW</b>			
AMITY	2,593.15	1,457.20	4,050.35
ARBOR GROVE	4,322.50	5,731.25	10,053.75
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SCHOOL VALLEY	250.33	250.33	500.66
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PLEASANT GROVE	2,454.00	5,237.00	7,691.00
PLEASANT RIDGE	1,350.00	1,350.00	2,700.00
SCHOOL VALLEY	250.3		



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BMC Faculty and Staff



McCumber



burg, Petal, and the Lamar County school district. Approximately 300 children, grades 1-8, will share their writing and illustrations with other young authors. Other activities will include lectures with published authors and illustrators of children's books, book signings, and lunch.



Cofield, Miss WCC

1. The following students have graduated from Southern Baptist seminaries: Katie Rebecca Cole, Brandon, Master of Divinity in Chaplain Ministry, Southwestern Seminary; Daniel Jacob Barber, Ocean Springs, Master of Divinity, Southeastern Seminary; and Jack T. (Tommy) Mitchell, Lucedale, Doctor of Ministry, Billy Graham School of Mission, Evangelism, and Church Ministry, Southern Seminary.
2. In preparation for observing MLK Day on Jan. 16, Blue Mountain College held a special chapel emphasis on service, volunteerism, and dedication to the workplace. Bobby P.

Martin, chairman of the BMC Board of Trustees, was one of several guest speakers who challenged the student body to choose opportunities of service that were personally satisfying and where they could make a difference. Joy Hurt Hill, president of the National Alumnae Association, led the students in recognizing the BMC faculty and staff who have served the College for a combined total of 846 years. Johnnie Armstrong, associate professor of Physical Education, was recognized as the longest service faculty member with 51 years. Carla Benson, administrative assistant to the president,

was recognized as the longest serving staff member with 42 years.

3. Lacey Cofield, a sophomore vocal performance major from Wiggins, was crowned Miss William Carey College recently at the Miss William Carey College Pageant held on the Hattiesburg campus.

4. Jennifer McCumber, a senior vocal performance major from Hattiesburg, was crowned Miss Pine Belt at the Miss Pine Belt Pageant held recently on the William Carey College campus in Hattiesburg.

5. William Carey College will host the Young Authors Celebration Feb. 3 from 9:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. on the Hattiesburg campus. Mississippi's first lady Marsha Barbour will attend the event with several young authors from Forrest, Lamar, Hatties-

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SL CMV TCM JYPXY TY,  
OYU GST LKOOKA TY;  
CMB AGYPY S CT,  
UGYPY JGCOO COJK TV  
JYPXCMU WY; SL CMV  
TCM JYPXY TY, GST ASOO  
TV LCUGYP GKMKDP.

QKGM UAYOXY:

UAYMUV-JSN

Clue: T = M

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Second Timothy Four: One.

## STAFF CHANGES

Yale Street Church, Cleveland, has called Thomas Bruce as pastor, effective Jan. 16.

## MS POSITIONS

**PRE-K 4 TEACHER NEEDED** for Alta Woods Baptist Church Kindergarten/daycare. Experience preferred. Please contact Nina at (601) 372-5188.

**BETHEL BAPTIST CHURCH, BOGUE CHITTO, MISS.**, in Lincoln county is seeking a part-time minister of music. Please send resume or recommendations to search committee, 112 Montgomery Rd., SW, Summit, MS 39666.

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Mrs. Nell Armstrong  
Victoria Spiers  
Mrs. Ardis Spiers  
Mr. & Mrs. Jimmy Spiers, Sr.  
Mr. & Mrs. Roger Spiers  
Mr. & Mrs. Raymond Spiers  
Mr. & Mrs. Shane Seal  
Mr. & Mrs. William Rowley  
Mr. Baxter Rowley  
Mr. & Mrs. Jeremy Fortinberry  
Mrs. Nell Armstrong  
Catherine Spores  
Second Baptist Church  
Mr. & Mrs. Larry Cheatham  
Mrs. Catherine Spores  
Mr. & Mrs. Charles L. Shelton

The Baptist Children's Village is seeking  
a Christian couple to join our ministry team  
as full-time, live-in house parents.  
This ministry position has a good salary and benefits.

For more information contact Ms. Kathy Flournoy  
at kflournoy@baptistchildrensvillage.com  
or call 601-922-2242.

Thank you to all of you who have helped  
to sponsor the choir trip for our 9th grade resident  
who will participate in a school choir trip  
to Orlando, Florida.

Your generosity is greatly appreciated.



## FAMILY BIBLE STUDY

### Why is sexual purity important?

Genesis 2:18, 21-25; Proverbs 5:15-20;  
Romans 13:11-14

By Don Hicks

God has a good plan for us in every aspect of life. We need to find God's plan to achieve the best in life. The Bible is the source of dependable information about all of God's will. In the most important aspects of life we can find Jesus Christ Himself teaching God's plan.

This is the case for marriage and human sexuality. Jesus taught what God's plan is and has been from the beginning of time. "But at the beginning of creation God 'made them male and female.' For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh. So they are no longer two, but one. Therefore what God has joined together, let

man not separate," Mark 10:6-9 [NIV].

The focal scripture passage for our lesson today includes the Bible's account of the "beginning of creation." Genesis 2:20-24 is the passage Jesus was quoting:

"But for Adam no suitable helper was found. So the Lord God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep; and while he was sleeping, he took one of the man's ribs and closed up the place with flesh. Then the Lord God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man. The man said,

"This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called woman, for she was taken out of man."

For this reason a man will

leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh."

Jesus stressed that this was God's plan from the very beginning because this helped explain that it is important and basic to God's good plan. In addition to God includ-

ing the account of the first marriage in the very beginning of His Word, the importance of protecting God's plan for sexual purity can be seen in the large number of times the Bible stresses it and the places where it is stressed.

One of the places God defends marriage and requires sexual purity is in the Ten Commandments. Two of the ten deal directly with reserving God's good gift of sex to the marriage relationship. The seventh commandment is direct and explicit "You shall not commit adultery," Exodus 20:14 [NIV]. And the tenth commandment is equally clear "You shall not covet your neighbor's

house. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife (the underline was added for emphasis), or his manservant or maidservant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor," Exodus 20:17 [NIV].

Many of the Proverbs deal with avoiding sexual sin. Proverbs 5:18-20 makes this emphasis this way: "...and may you rejoice in the wife of your youth. ... may you ever be captivated by her love. Why be captivated, my son, by an adulteress? ..."

The captivating love of a married couple is the way the Holy Spirit chose to have the Apostle Paul explain the relationship between Christ and his bride the church in Ephesians chapter 5. Look more closely in Ephesians 5 at verses 25 and following: "Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her to make her holy, cleansing her ... to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. ... but

he feeds and care for it, just as Christ does the church — for we are members of his body. 'For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.' This is a profound mystery — but I am talking about Christ and the church."

Paul taught that as the day of Christ's return approaches we are to be ready. Part of being ready Paul taught was to "behave decently." This is the way he explained behaving decently in Romans 13:12-14 "The night is nearly over; the day is almost here. So let us put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light. Let us behave decently, as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and debauchery, not in dissension and jealousy. Rather clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the sinful nature," [NIV].

Hicks is a member of First Church, Clinton.

## EXPLORE THE BIBLE

### Consider Others

Romans 14:1-12

By Shirley Heap

How do you interpret "spiritual pride?" Aren't these two words in total opposition to each other? This is exactly what Paul is dealing with in the early church. As a pastor's wife of 35 years, I have seen many differences in churches regarding "doing or not doing" even though all were Baptist. Also, as an older person I can remember grandparents having patterns and traditions that are no longer recognized today. This brings one to conclude that our traditions are not the greatest priority. God wants His people to know Him and give praise to Him only. So our hearts should be so turned to consider others as they grow in the Lord.

Accept Others,  
Romans 14:1-2

Although one may not worship in the same way we do, that person is to be accepted as a brother in Christ. We must not judge the people on their methods of worship. In these two verses Paul begins to address a problem that had arisen in the church at Rome between those Christians from Jewish background who still wanted to follow the Jewish ceremonial law regarding the eating of meat and those from Gentile background who understood that grace freed them from these rules. Paul admonishes them not to argue over the issue but to encourage one another in the faith.

Several years ago our family moved to a new church field. As

the pastor's wife I began to notice the ladies never wore pants. I never mentioned it to anyone, but only wore dresses the years we were there. It was more important to show them the love of Christ than to change their traditions. Paul said that he had become all things to all people that he might save some. A lifestyle of love and humility can win many that criticism or judgmental sermons can never reach.

Avoid Criticizing Others,  
Romans 14:3-4

Our missionaries deal with cultures that are different and must adapt the Gospel message so that each culture can understand. They could win very few if they tried to deal with them with an attitude of criticism. Missionaries' goals are the same as Paul's; that is to see people come to know Jesus through faith. As believers, this should always be foremost in our

minds. Some may raise their hands in worship, others may lie face down, and others may bow their heads in humility and weep. So who are we to criticize what may be in their hearts?

Live for the Lord,  
Romans 14:5-9

In verse 5 Paul says, "Let each man be convinced in his own mind." Only in examination of our own hearts and minds can we know that we know Him. Paul was sure of this one thing. As we walk as Christians we are never alone. Many see us daily and we watch others. Paul wanted all believers to know what he knew about the Lord. We see this in all his writings. God deals with the inward part of man. We still try to work with the outward part.

From Paul's heart he says, "if we live, we live to the Lord; and if we die, we die to the Lord" (Verse 8). If we could truly grasp this thought what an abundant life we would have. The only reason Christ came

and died and rose again was that He could be Lord of all.

Remember God's Judgment,  
Romans 14:10-12

Paul has a way of bringing us back into reality by making strong statements after he asks a question. "Why do you criticize your brother? Then he adds, 'We will all stand before the judgment seat of God' (Verse 10).

We all have so much to deal with in our own fellowship with our Lord, so where does this leave us as judges to criticize our brothers? We have no podium on which to stand. "...every knee shall bow and every tongue confess to God." (Verse 11). Christ has cleansed each of his children and begun a good work in each life and will continue this work as He sees fit. Each one will give an account of himself. May we be found faithful by showing others Christ through our lives.

Heap is a member of Calvary Church, Waynesboro.

## Guidelines for submitting news and photographs

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

News submitted for publication in The Baptist Record must be either (a) typewritten, (b) neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper, or (c) neatly printed on standardized forms provided by the newspaper. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone.

News may be submitted electronically to the address below, and must be contained in the message segment of an e-mail form. Due to increasing virus threats, no text attachments will be accepted.

Photograph attachments are permissible.

Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs may be color or black and white. Instant photos and digital printouts

are not reproducible. Digital photos may be used if submitted as a JPEG file via either (a) e-mail, (b) three-and-a-half inch floppy disk, or (c) CD. Photos must be clear, sharp, and well-lighted.

All news items are subject to editing, and all photographs are subject to crop-

ping. Photographs must depict people. No landscape, building, or object-only photographs will be printed. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date.

Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis. Requests to return photographs must be accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

Submit news and photographs to The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. FAX: (601) 292-3330. E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org.

**Record**



## JUST FOR THE RECORD



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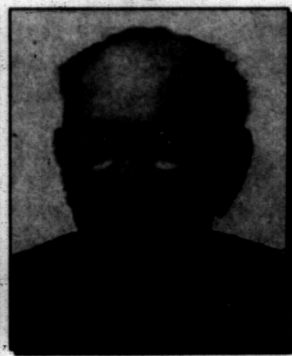
Coughran



Smith



McBride



Strong

### 1. Perfect Attendance, Utica Church

1. **Utica Church, Utica**, recognized the following members for perfect attendance in Sunday School: Edna Earl Cessna, 6 years, 6 months; Cloyd "Buddy" Strong, 7 years; Don Alston, 7 years, 3 months; Diane Smith, 5 years; Terrica McBride, 17 years, 9 months; and Kevin Coughran, 18 years. Ben James, pastor.

2. **Trinity Church, Monroe Association**, surpassed their Lottie Moon Christmas Offering goal of \$500 by collecting \$1186.06. Pastor Jack Dauphin, in response to his challenge to the church, shaved his beard at the conclusion of the worship service.

3. **Crossgates Church, Brandon**, will host Evidence in concert Jan. 29, 6 p.m. For more information, call (601) 825-2562.

4. **Concord Church, Booneville**, will host N-2 Jesus in concert Jan. 29, 5 p.m., followed by a fellowship meal.

5. **First Church, Madison**, will host a Wild Game Feast Feb. 3, 6:30 p.m., featuring Jimmy Sites, Nashville, Tenn., speaking on the topic, A Look at Life from a Deer Stand. Bring a wild game dish and a friend. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for children 12 and under. For more information, call (601) 856-6177.

6. **Mt. Comfort Church, Bruce**, recognizes Children's Bible drill participant Benjamin Baker for completing the state level in 2005. Shown is Baker and leader Debbi Harrelson.

7. **Mt. Comfort Church, Bruce**, recognizes its Youth Bible drill participants. Shown left to right: Teresa Harrelson, leader; Brandy Gann, Christopher Baker, Rebekah Baker, and Janae Harrelson.

8. **First Church, Vancleave**, surpassed their \$30,000 Lottie Moon Christmas Offering goal by collecting \$34,662.60, including a

one-time offering of \$33,000. Shown are associate pastor Tim Wilson, Mona Wallen, Rebecca Mason, and Delores Cook.

9. **Walnut Grove Church, Walnut Grove**, recently ordained their new pastor, Dave Dowdy. Shown are Dowdy, Mandy Dowdy, and Joe Able.

10. **Slayden Church, Slayden**, held a Fall Festival Oct. 31, and their sanctuary choir presented Night of Alleluias Dec. 10 and 11. Shown is Trilby West as Granny from the Fall Festival and the sanctuary choir.



2. Lottie Moon Offering, Trinity Church, Monroe Association



6. Bible Drill Participant, Mt. Comfort Church, Bruce



7. Youth Bible Drill Participants, Mt. Comfort Church, Bruce



8. Lottie Moon Offering, First Church, Vancleave



9. Dowdy Ordained, Walnut Grove Church, Walnut Grove



10. Fall Festival, Slayden Church, Slayden

## OBITUARIES

**Leonard Doil Howell, 71**, passed away Nov. 28, 2005. He has pastored Mount View Church, Ripley; Macedonia Church, Myrtle; Glenfield Church, New Albany; Evergreen Church, Louisville; Shady Grove Church, Pontotoc; and Amaziah Church, Hickory Flat. Service were held at Temperance Hill Church, Potts Camp, with Jason Howell and Kara Blackard officiating. Survivors include his wife, Dorothy Virginia Humphreys Howell; three sons, Leonard Doil Howell, Jr., Thomas D. Howell and wife, LaShon, and Lannie Derrick Howell, and wife, Jan; three sisters, three brothers, five grandchildren, and five stepgrandchildren.

**J. Ray Grissett, 74**, passed away Jan. 10. Funeral services were held at Moor Funeral Home, Hattiesburg, with Eugene H. Dobbs and Joe Young officiating. Grissett held pastorates at Richburg Church, Hattiesburg, First Church, Beaumont, Cove Church, Panama City, Fla., First Church, Wiggins, and First Church, Philadelphia. He was administrative consultant with the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board and retired in September, 1993, as Director of the Cooperative Missions department. He is survived by his wife, Mary Pope Ray Grissett; daughters Thelma Jayne Grissett and Michal Theresa Grissett Tincup and husband Jeffrey William; Gloria Ray McNair and husband Michael; a grandson, two step granddaughters, two great-grandchildren, and a sister and her husband.